

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 EB-07 CEQ-01 EPA-01

DOT-00 HUD-01 NASA-01 NSF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 /094 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/IM:MPROCHNIK

APPROVED BY OES/NET/IM:HBENGELSDORF

ERDA - A.FRIEDMAN

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EB/ORF/FFE - R.MARTIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173779

OECD PARIS FOR STEVE BOSWORTH, SLT MEETING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, FR

SUBJECT: ENERGY R&D INITIATIVES IN IEA

1. AT A MEETING TODAY BETWEEN ASST. SECRETARIES ENDERS
AND KRATZER AND ERDA ADMINISTRATOR SEAMANS, AGREEMENT WAS
REACHED IN PRINCIPLE THAT US BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER
IEA MEMBER COUNTRIES ON FOLLOWING INITIATIVES FOR FALL
MEETING OF R&D CHIEFS. INITIATIVES WOULD REPRESENT ADD-ON
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TO EXISTING IEA PROGRAMS.

2. PREPARATION OF IEA ENERGY R&D PLAN. RECENTLY PUBLISHED
ERDA NATIONAL PLAN COULD SERVE AS MODEL FOR SIMILAR SYS-

THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF OTHER IEA MEMBER COUNTRY RESEARCH NEEDS AND ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED TO LEAD TO MORE COHERENT IEA APPROACH. ANALYSIS COULD BE EXPECTED TO COVER OBJECTIVES, EXTENT OF ON-GOING RESEARCH, AMOUNT AND TYPES OF ENERGY LIKELY TO RESULT AND WHEN. ASSESSMENT WOULD ALSO BE MADE OF EXTENT TO WHICH CURRENT NATIONAL PROGRAMS MESH AND MIGHT BE FURTHER INTEGRATED IN FUTURE. FINALLY, THE PLAN WOULD MEASURE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EXISTING COOPERATION AND WOULD IDENTIFY TECHNOLOGIES THAT HOLD PROMISE OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS IF GIVEN MORE ATTENTION AND INVESTMENT. SUCH A

REVIEW WOULD SERVE TO ASSURE OURSELVES, OTHER CONSUMING COUNTRIES AND OPEC NATIONS THAT OUR COOPERATIVE R&D PROGRAM REPRESENTS MOST EFFICIENT POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGIC AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO IEA ENERGY GOALS.

3. JOINT FUND. NATIONAL FUNDING ON PROJECT BY PROJECT BASIS LIKELY TO REMAIN PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR R&D COOPERATION WITH IEA. NEVERTHELESS, PROGRAM MIGHT BE IMPROVED, FLEXIBILITY ADDED AND RESULTS ACCELERATED BY GIVING IEA R&D EFFORT SOME RESOURCES OF ITS OWN. SIZE OF ANY JOINT FUND, INITIALLY AT LEAST, SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THAT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE "SEED" MONEY TO CERTAIN HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS OR TO CATALYZE SUPPORT FOR PROJECT NEEDING SUCH HELP. NEED FOR MULTI-YEAR CONTINUITY IN SUPPORT RECOGNIZED BUT DURATION OF FUND SHOULD NOT BE OPEN-ENDED. SOURCE OF FUNDS COULD BE LINKED IN SOME WAY TO IMPORT DEPENDENCY. WHAT WE SEEK FROM OTHER IEA MEMBER COUNTRIES AT THIS TIME IS AGREEMENT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A FUNDING ARRANGEMENT. SPECIFICS ON SIZE, USES TO WHICH IT WOULD BE PUT AND METHODS OF ASSESSING NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE COVERED IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION.

4. JOINT PROJECTS. WE SEE POLITICAL AND SUBSTANTIVE BENEFITS IN THE GENERATION OF A FEW LARGE HIGH-VISIBILITY "BRICK AND MORTAR" TYPE R&D PROJECTS IN ADDITION TO ON-GOING WORK IN IEA R&D SUBGROUP. WE HAVE SPECIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST IN IMPORTANT BACK-UP PROJECTS NOT RECEIVING ADEQUATE SUPPORT ON PURELY NATIONAL BASIS.

ERDA NOW REVIEWING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD LEND THEMSELVES TO THIS TYPE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. WE WOULD LIKE VIEWS OF OTHER IEA COUNTRIES ON TYPES OF PROJECTS THAT COULD MOST BENEFIT FROM SUCH FOCUSED ATTENTION.

5. MANAGEMENT ISSUES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT PREPARATION FOR THE FALL MEETING OF IEA CHIEFS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES WILL REQUIRE SERVICES OF SMALL ADDITIONAL STAFF ON TEMPORARY BASIS TO ASSIST PRESENT IEA R&D SECRETARIAT. BEST APPROACH MIGHT BE TO SEEK AGREEMENT BY PRINCIPAL R&D

COUNTRIES ON SECONDING 4 OR 5 R&D PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
EXPERTS FOR 3-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING MIDDLE AUGUST. ERDA
PREPARED TO SUPPLY ONE SUCH SPECIALIST. WE WILL PROBABLY
ASK SCHMIDT-KUESTER TO HEAD SPECIAL PREPARATORY EFFORT
FOR FALL MEETING BUT WILL DELAY FORMAL REQUEST UNTIL
REACTION OF OTHER IEA COUNTRIES TO OUR INITIATIVES BECOME
KNOWN AT SLT AND GB MEETINGS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, RESEARCH, POLICIES, MEETING AGENDA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE173779
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: OES/NET/IM:MPROCHNIK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750254-0828
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507106/baaaaqbv.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: TECH, FR, IEA
To: OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006